

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

East Germany

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SUBJECT

Road Bridges over the Oder and Neisse Rivers

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1. The road bridge over the Oder River - Nieder-Kraenig highway is being construction. Rows of piles, about 2 meters apart, have been ramped spanned across the river. The piles are to support a narrow-gauge field railroad track which is to be used for the construction of the bridge piers. 1
2. The new road bridge over the Neisse River at Guben is completed except for the railing. Construction workers said that the bridge was scheduled to be opened to traffic on 1 November 1954. The old Neisse bridge, which was about 500 meters east of the new bridge site, is still unreconstructed. 2
3. In mid-October 1954, the last span of the Autobahn bridge over the Oder River near Frankfurt/Oder was completed. The supports for the roadway will still have to be built in three spans. The Autobahn bridge is scheduled to be completed by late 1954. It was originally planned to have a second bridge constructed so as to have separate bridges available for westbound and eastbound traffic. After the first caissons for the second bridge had been sunk, construction work had to be suspended without warning, probably because of a cut in the budget available for road construction work. 3 and 4

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1. Comment. A total of six bridges over the Oder and Neisse Rivers have been rebuilt. (See plane table sheet, Germany, scale 1:25,000, sheet 2951 (Schwedt)). For latest report on the status of these road bridges, The bridge at Schwedt is the easternmost of the six bridges mentioned. All these road bridges over the Oder and Neisse Rivers except for the Autobahn bridge at Frankfurt/Oder are being reconstructed under Polish supervision.

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2. Comment. Work on the road bridge over the Neisse River at Guben was started in March 1953. It therefore appears possible that it was

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3. Comment. The Autobahn bridge at Frankfurt/Oder was included in the 1954 road bridge construction project. For latest report on this project, The first bridge with one lane is scheduled to be completed by early 1955. The construction of a second bridge for the second lane is also planned. These plans have, however, not materialized. The sinking of caissons mentioned by source was probably not connected with intended construction work for a second bridge.

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4. Comment. It has been pointed out previously ~~that the reconstruction~~ of road bridges over the Oder and Neisse Rivers ~~was ordered by the government~~ for military reasons. ~~These bridges are~~ scheduled to be opened to traffic in 1955. Observations made so far indicate that the bridges will be completed according to schedule.

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